

**LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**June 7, 2018**

**Robert J. Samanie, III  
Chairman**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert J. Samanie, III', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting  
and are not verbatim transcripts of the proceedings.

Audio files of the meetings are kept at the  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

2000 Quail Drive

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

For more information, call (225) 763-5775

**AGENDA**  
**Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**  
**Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

**June 7, 2018 – 9:30 AM**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Adoption of April 26, 2018 Special Commission Meeting and May 3, 2018 Commission Meeting Minutes
5. Commission Special Announcements / Personal Privilege
6. Enforcement Report May 2018
7. Receive an Update Regarding the Legislation Filed for the 2018 Regular Session
8. Receive an Update on Recreational Red Snapper Landings
9. Receive and Consider a Notice of Intent to Modify Rules on Mature and Immature Female Blue Crab Harvest
10. Update on LDWF Response to MDWFP Discovery of CWD in Mississippi
11. Receive Presentation on “The Manitoba Waterfowl Habitat Securement Project” Proposal
12. Receive Presentation on “Securing a Legacy of Habitat in Saskatchewan with Enduring Benefits for Current and Future Generations to Enjoy” Proposal
13. Set October 2018 Commission Meeting Date
14. Receive Public Comments
15. Adjournment

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**OF**  
**LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION**

**Thursday, June 7, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission was **Called to Order** at 9:30 AM on June 7, 2018, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Headquarters Building in the Louisiana Room by **Chairman Samanie**.

**Commissioner Sunseri** led the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

**Chairman Samanie** asked for the **Roll Call**. The following Commissioners were present:

Bobby Samanie  
Al Sunseri  
Chad Courville  
Bill Hogan  
Joe McPherson  
Jerri Smitko  
Bart Yakupzack

Secretary Jack Montoucet was also present.

Next, **Chairman Samanie** called for **Adoption of April 26, 2018 Special Commission Meeting and May 3, 2018 Commission Meeting Minutes**. **Commissioner Courville** made a motion to adopt the April 26, 2018 Special Commission Meeting and May 3, 2018 Commission Meeting minutes and it was seconded by **Commissioner Yakupzack**. The motion passed with no opposition.

For **Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege**, **Commissioner Courville** reminded everyone of the Gulf Council Meeting beginning on June 18, 2018. Items of interest to Louisiana anglers included cobia, final action on Amendment 49 (sea turtle release gear), Reef Fish Committee meeting on June 19, a "Draft Roadmap of Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Regional Plan for the Gulf of Mexico" presentation, and a review of the Council's outreach plan on dissenting and venting policy. He then stated that there would be an update on all of the items at the full Council Meeting on Thursday, June 21. Then **Commissioner Courville** announced he attended a Department symposium on recent research conducted by wildlife and fisheries staff. He congratulated the staff and felt all of the research was spectacular.

Captain Edward Skena began the **Enforcement Report for May 2018** stating for the month there were 16 boating incidents with 8 injuries and 5 fatalities. Also in May, there were 936

written citations, 695 written warnings and 35 public assists. News releases discussed included citing a Texas man for taking female crabs during a closed season and violating interstate commerce regulations; 3 men were cited in Jefferson Parish for possession of over the limit and undersized red drum; and 2 Cameron Parish residents were cited for violating Calcasieu Lake oyster regulations. Then Captain Skena talked about flag pole memoriam dedicated on May 30, 2018 in honor of Byron Dore, a member of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Academy Class that passed away during the academy in 2008. **Commissioner McPherson** was concerned about the boating fatality report including the language "Operator – no boat education" and hoped it would not correlate fatality statistics with boater education. He suggested the wording be changed to "no boat education required" or something similar.

**Chairman Samanie** then asked Mr. Cole Garrett, Executive Counsel, for his presentation, **Receive an Update Regarding the Legislation Filed for the 2018 Regular Session.** Mr. Garrett commented the Regular Session ended on May 18 so a 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Session could run from May 22 through June 4, 2018. As the 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Session did not satisfy its goals, Mr. Garrett felt another Special Session may be held before the end of the Fiscal Year. House Bill 129 (Exempts LDWF from Capital Outlay Process) was vetoed by the Governor; House Bill 189 (Provides for a Review of Agency Rules on a Recurring Basis) passed, was signed into law and becomes effective January 1, 2019; House Bill 345 (Prohibits the Use of Conservation Fund for Building Acquisition without Legislative Approval) was vetoed; and Senate Bill 474 (Increases Capital Outlay Exemption for Projects) did not pass. Licensing bills discussed included House Bill 4 (Extends the sunset date for LA Creel to 2022) passed, signed and became effective May 10, 2018; House Bill 549 (Registration of House Boats) passed and will become effective January 1, 2019; and House Bill 687 (Recreational Hunting and Fishing License Restructure) failed to pass. The Wildlife bills included House Bill 114 (Prohibits Capture, Sale or Transport of Common Musk Turtles) did not move; and House Bill 130 (Provides for the Establishment of Airboat Trails on WMAs) was signed and will become effective August 1, 2018. **Commissioner Courville** asked if the use of airboats would only be allowed outside of the hunting season and Mr. Garrett answered yes. Continuing with the Wildlife bills, House Bill 197 (Prohibits Importation of Live Deer) was signed into law and becomes effective August 1, 2018. **Commissioner McPherson** asked if it was legal to bring cervids into the state and release them into the wild before this bill and Mr. Garrett stated R.S. 56:20 refers only to prohibiting the release of those animals, but it had nothing in it on transport or importation of those animals. House Bill 226 (Criminalizes Unpermitted Transport of Feral Hogs) was enrolled; House Bill 228 (Prohibits Erection of Stands or Hunting Near Property Boundaries) did not move; House Concurrent Resolution 83 (Urges LDWF to Authorize Increased Feral Hog Hunting Opportunities on WMAs) ; House Bill 456 (Authorizes Shooting Bear in Self-Defense) was not heard in any committee; Senate Bill 688 (Corrects Statutory References to Litter Program in DEQ) was signed and becomes effective August 1, 2018; House Bill 714 (Sets Turkey Hunting Season Dates) failed in the House Natural Resources Committee; House Bill 411 (Exempts the Tickfaw River from Certain Restrictions of the Natural and Scenic Rivers Program) was signed into law and becomes effective June 30, 2018; Senate Bill 490 (Removes/Suspends Inclusion of Comite River and Bayou Manchac in the Scenic Rivers Program) was also signed into law and becomes effective August 1, 2018. For Fisheries bills, House Bill 391 (Provides Public Access to Running Waters of the State) did not pass the House but Senate Concurrent Resolution 99 passed and established a Task Force to study this issue; House Bill 425 (Includes Charter Guides

as Certified Commercial Activities) was signed and became effective May 15, 2018; House Bill 706 (Possession of Fillets on the Water) and Senate Bill 327 (Possession Limits of Certain Fish Species on the Water) both passed and were signed into law; House Bill 624 (Provides for a Standard Oyster Basket and Creates a Mini-Sack) passed and becomes effective August 1, 2018; House Bill 722 (Wholesome and Marketable Oysters) failed in the House Natural Resources Committee; House Bill 799 (Disposition of Derelict Crab Traps) passed and becomes effective August 1, 2018; House Bill 812 (Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board) was enrolled; Senate Bill 176 (Sibley Lake Crappie Limits) was voluntarily deferred in the Senate Natural Resources Committee; Senate Bill 451 (Institutes Permanent Moratorium on Oyster Harvest in Sabine Lake) passed and becomes effective August 1, 2018; and Senate Bill 453 (Allows Limited Dredging in Calcasieu Lake) was not heard in the Senate Natural Resources Committee. The 2 Enforcement bills, House Bill 37 (Retirement Benefits for Agents Permanently Disabled by Intentional Act of Violence) passed and became effective May 31, 2018; and Senate Bill 3 (Benefits for Survivors of Hazard Duty Plan Members Killed in Action by Intentional Act of Violence) passed and became effective May 15, 2018. Mr. Garrett concluded stating he would keep the Commission posted on the next Special Session. (A copy of Mr. Garrett's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

Following the presentation, **Commissioner Courville** asked if standards would be set on the fillets, how much skin will need to be on the fillet and how that will work. Col. Sammy Martin stated it would fall within the standard operating procedure for his agents. **Commissioner Courville** asked that the public be informed once that procedure was established. Then the **Commissioner** asked if Senate Bill 327 allows for three times the daily creel but they cannot be fillets and Mr. Garrett answered yes, the fish have to be whole and gutted. **Commissioner Sunseri** asked if the Department plans to put together a recreational and commercial license package to be presented at the next Fiscal Session. Mr. Garrett explained that the Department received criticism on House Bill 687 since it dealt only with recreational licenses and next year's Fiscal Session will allow the Department to examine the commercial side too and possibly present a holistic view of the recreational and commercial licenses and the needs of the agency. **Commissioner Sunseri** suggested a small group of legislators, Department staff and Commission members work and put a package together.

Mr. Jason Adriance, Fisheries Biologist, was asked by **Chairman Samanie** to give his presentation, **Receive an Update on Recreational Red Snapper Landings**. Mr. Adriance stated this update would be for the first 3 days of the season, May 25-27, 2018. The landings for those 3 days totaled 83,277 pounds which was 11% of the allocation. The next chart showed holiday weeks and federal openings and the number of EEZ days showing how landings fell at that time. The projection chart with the remaining allocation was then shown. (A copy of Mr. Adriance's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

**Commissioner Courville** asked Mr. Adriance if there would be weekly updates on the Department's website and he was told yes, usually by Thursday of each week.

**Chairman Samanie** then stated the next agenda item, **Receive and Consider a Notice of Intent to Modify Rules on Mature and Immature Female Blue Crab Harvest** would be given by Mr. Peyton Cagle, Fisheries Biologist. Mr. Cagle stated this action would modify the blue crab

harvest for 2019, but first he gave a recent history of the blue crab harvest regulation. Based on a 3-year average, the effects on the recent regulations has shown that the 30-day full closure reduced landings and dockside value by about 50% and the 60-day female restriction reduced landings and dockside value by 38%. The staff presented the Crab Task Force with 4 management options in an effort to reduce landings by an amount not less than 1.3 million pounds. In March 2018, the Crab Task Force heard the options and decided to hear public comments and at the May 2018 the Task Force recommended the 35-day female restriction for the fall. Next, Mr. Cagle showed a graph how the 35-day female restriction would reduce landings and dockside value by 33%. (A copy of Mr. Cagle's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

**Commissioner Sunseri** commented he was concerned that this was the third time in 3 years the Commission was being asked to change crab management. He knew that the Commission was to take the recommendations from the Task Forces but felt the changes were not rational to him.

**Commissioner Sunseri** asked if crabs were overfished or has predation from finfish become a problem. Mr. Cagle stated the finfish was not calculated in the stock assessment. He noted conditions have improved, fishing mortality was still over the target, but the biomass went above the target 2 years ago and was just below last year. **Commissioner Sunseri** then asked if crab populations and other fisheries vary with environmental factors (temperature, salinity, rainfall, river discharges, predation, habitat decline and competition from other organisms) and Mr. Cagle stated yes, conditions affect growth rates. **Commissioner Sunseri** wondered if the wet and warm 2017 had an impact on the crab fishery and how much was produced which directed the change for 2018. Mr. Cagle mentioned that the numbers of crabs were not affecting where this management recommendation was coming from, it was coming strictly from the Crab Task Force and the industry. **Commissioner Sunseri** asked if there was a relationship between the abundance of adult crabs and juvenile crabs and Mr. Cagle noted they have seen a decrease in juveniles and an increase in adults from their independent samples. **Commissioner Smitko** asked if the prices in the fall would reduce the landings by about the same but the dockside value would be different in the new proposal and Mr. Cagle answered yes. Then the **Commissioner** asked if there would be the same benefit with the biomass by closing during the fall as opposed to the spring and Mr. Cagle commented it was always best to protect the females since they have such a short life and only mates once. **Commissioner Smitko** felt there would still be protection of the females in the fall as during the spring and Mr. Cagle stated that the majority of the berry crabs appear in May and June but another set shows up in October. Then **Commissioner Smitko** felt there was no correlation between poundage and protection if the majority were shedding in the May-June time period. She felt the science was there for the spring restriction and Mr. Cagle felt the proposed regulation would still accomplish the same goal as that when these regulations were first presented. **Commissioner Smitko** concurred with **Commissioner Sunseri** on the schizophrenic in the crab policy and did not want to see it change every season based on who hollered the loudest. Mr. Cagle felt if there would be a need for further regulations, the Department would have an idea of what works and what does not work. **Commissioner Smitko** then asked Mr. Cagle if he was recommending this proposal and he said he had no issue with the recommendation. **Commissioner Yakupzack** asked Mr. Cagle what timeframe did the new stock assessment cover that he referred to and he was told the biomass was through 2017 and fishing mortality was through 2016. Then the **Commissioner** asked if the 2017 data was close to the 3-year average and Mr. Cagle stated, if he remembered correctly, it

was a little over the 3-year average. Based on a question from **Commissioner Yakupzack**, Mr. Cagle mentioned that a lot of management options were brought to the Crab Task Force and the Task Force decided to go with the full spring closure for 2017. **Commissioner Yakupzack** accepted Mr. Cagle's recommendation but hoped that the proposal would remain in place for 3 years since he has heard several times during his tenure that biologists like to have 3 years of data. **Commissioner McPherson** commented that the Commission was not obligated to accept the Crab Task Force's recommendation but wondered if the landing values in the fall was so much less due to the market for crabs and Mr. Cagle noted a lot more crab are caught and the amount of landings increase at that time of year which results in a lower price. Then

**Commissioner McPherson** asked if the biomass was the same for the spring as the fall, this recommendation should have been adopted 3 years ago. Mr. Cagle thought there was a lot of negative comments from the crab processors when the conversations began in 2016.

**Commissioner McPherson** asked, if the landings were higher in the fall season and the females would be excluded for a 35-day period, why wouldn't this show up in the landings. Mr. Cagle commented that the 60-day closure reduced the landings by about 1.58 million crabs but the 35-day restriction would reduce the landings by 1.53 million and noting it takes a lot less time to catch crabs during the fall. The Crab Task Force actually wanted a 30-day closure but staff felt that was too small of a number (1.2 million – 1.3 million reduction) and believed the 35-day restriction would have the same reduction. **Commissioner McPherson** commented that the missing data was needed to show the success or failure of the other regulations. **Commissioner Sunseri** wondered what was the timeframe for a Notice of Intent to make the change for the upcoming season and noted he wanted to gain more information in order to make a better decision. Assistant Secretary Patrick Banks stated there was time to wait but in explaining the rulemaking process, it was not something that could be delayed too long in order to have the regulation in place before the spring crab season. **Commissioner Smitko** asked Col. Sammy Martin if there has been any difficulty in enforcing the female only closure and she was told no.

**Commissioner Courville** asked what was the ultimate goal for these regulations, was it to increase recruitment or increase total biomass and Mr. Cagle answered the action was based on the 2015 stock assessment that showed it was being overfished. He added that this new restriction for the fall of 2019 would include both recreational and commercial fishermen. **Commissioner Courville** asked Mr. Cagle if the numbers on the graph were based on trip tickets and he was told yes. **Chairman Samanie** then asked the wishes of the Commission.

**Commissioner Sunseri** made a motion to table this proposal until the next meeting so more information can be obtained and Commission questions can be answered in order to make a better decision and he hoped this regulation would stay in place for a while. Mr. Cagle noted this would be the last year for a restriction based on the decision made in 2016. **Commissioner McPherson** seconded the motion and asked to see the stock assessments for the 3 years to know whether a regulation would be needed going forward. **Commissioner Yakupzack** agreed with the motion to hear it again in July but requested the actual reduction data be compared with 2016 and possibly 2017 data. He supported the recommendation since the 3-year average data shows this same thing can be accomplished with less impact to the industry. **Chairman Samanie** asked if the 2017 stock assessment would be available and Mr. Cagle stated it was on the Department's website now. **Commissioner Sunseri** asked how many processors were in the state and Mr. Cagle did not have that number. **Commissioner Smitko** commented her concern was with the resource and not the processors or the price of the crab at the dock. She then called for the question. There being no public comments, the motion passed with no opposition.



Mr. Johnathan Bordelon, Deer Program Manager, handled the next agenda item, **Update on LDWF Response to MDWFP Discovery of CWD in Mississippi**. The presentation began with a map of the United States and Canada showing captive facilities with CWD and Mr. Bordelon noted CWD was present in the northwestern portion of Arkansas, parts of Texas and the closest area to Louisiana was on the Mississippi River. Texas first detected CWD in 2012 in mule deer and since then it has been found in 2015 in captive white-tailed deer in central Texas. Since then, CWD has been traced to breeding facilities and also to its first free-ranging white-tailed deer in 2017. Texas sampled about 20,000 deer and have not found any other free-ranging positive deer since 2017; however, Texas has found CWD mule deer and a free-ranging elk in the Texas panhandle. Northwest Arkansas has 10 counties impacted with CWD. Once Arkansas found their first CWD case in 2016, they found many more mainly in Newton County. Since then, more than 10,000 animals have been tested with 343 deer having tested positive. In Arkansas, baiting and feeding are allowed only during the hunting season and they have carcass restrictions within 4 of the 10 county zone. The Mississippi CWD discovery in Issaquena County has the disease "right at our door", according to Mr. Bordelon. To date, Mississippi was still collecting animals since the area of discovery was inundated with flooding right about the time the disease was discovered. A total of 375 samples have been collected with an additional 75 more taken within the last 2 days from the flooded area. The plans for Mississippi were to stop collecting and focus their efforts on hunter harvest samples this fall just as Louisiana will do. Also, Mississippi will continue with their feeding ban in the 6 county CWD area. Next, Mr. Bordelon talked about the response in Louisiana noting the 300 targeted deer have been collected from the parishes of East Carroll, Madison and Tensas. Of those 300, there has been no detection of CWD. Again, Mr. Bordelon noted Louisiana would continue sampling through hunter harvested samples, road kills and any animals they get calls on showing signs of sickness with a goal of getting 400-500 deer from across the state in addition to 300 deer from the parishes of Tensas, Madison and East Carroll. He noted staff was not going to ask the Commission to act on continuing with the banning regulation but was going to recommend to hunters that they do not feed the deer and continue with their outreach to hunters and landowners. (A copy of Mr. Bordelon's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

**Commissioner McPherson** asked if Mr. Bordelon knew when the Arkansas elk herd restocking efforts started and he was told it was maybe back in the 1980's but there was no proof on how the disease began in Arkansas. He added that the percentage of CWD positive elk was much lower than the percentage of white-tailed deer. **Commissioner McPherson** was concerned that the Legislature exempted the Department of Agriculture and Forestry on importation of live deer. He then relayed a time when a large number of tickets were issued to hunters bringing home deer not properly tagged from their camps and asked Col. Martin if hunter education was emphasizing the importance of not bringing in hunter carcasses from out-of-state. Col. Martin stated enforcement agents were present during hunter education courses and those topics were covered. Then **Commissioner McPherson** asked what was the gestation period for CWD and Mr. Bordelon commented once an animal is exposed to the disease, it may begin shedding the infecting agents within 6 months and could demonstrate symptoms within 2 years. **Commissioner McPherson** wondered when would an animal test positive after it was infected and Mr. Bordelon stated within 6 months. **Commissioner Smitko** asked if the emergency response plan include a parish line carcass export ban if CWD was discovered and Mr. Bordelon

responded that if CWD was discovered, staff would discuss export restrictions of animal parts as well as limit transporting across parish lines and then presented to the Commission. She then thanked Mr. Bordelon and the other staff for the work they have done. **Commissioner Courville** asked for a refresher on what other state Agriculture and Forestry Departments and Wildlife and Fisheries Departments may have on importation or movement restrictions. He then asked for a presentation on the procedure and protocols a hunter can undertake to have a deer tested both within the targeted area and outside the targeted area. Finally, **Commissioner Courville** wondered what will happen next on the feeding ban and Assistant Secretary Randy Myers noted the feeding ban prohibition extends into July. He added the landowners within the 3 parishes were told that once the samples and results were known and there were no CWD positive samples, action would be taken by the Secretary to lift the feeding ban, and this action was being taken. **Commissioner Courville** echoed **Commissioner Smitko's** comments to Mr. Bordelon and other staff as well as landowners and the Department on moving forward with the restriction and the outstanding job done throughout this time.

Before beginning the next agenda item, **Receive Presentation on "The Manitoba Waterfowl Habitat Securement Project" Proposal**, **Chairman Samanie** announced this item as well as the next were not action items. Mr. John Davis, Vice-President of Development for Delta Waterfowl, began the presentation thanking the Commission for this opportunity and for the long standing commitment to the state's waterfowl resources. Delta Waterfowl's constituent is the waterfowl hunter and its vision was for the abundant waterfowl and endless opportunities for hunters. Mr. Davis mentioned that research was the base of everything with a 4 prong approach (duck production, habitat policy, hunter recruitment and hunter access). Delta Waterfowl was found in 1911 with over 600 peer-reviewed publications produced and many waterfowl biologists coming through the program. Under duck production, Delta Waterfowl still feels predator management and the hen house program gives the greatest return on dollar invested in producing ducks. The most important legislation for habitat conservation was the 2018 Farm Bill; other programs included working wetlands, ALUS, GROW and Adopt-a-Pothole. Next Mr. Davis talked about hunter recruitment, access and opportunity. Delta's presence in Louisiana consists of 26 Chapters with 6800 members, investing in 251 projects, putting 5300 hunters through the recruitment programs, giving \$50,000 in scholarships and partnering on research in Louisiana. Mr. Davis asked that Louisiana partner with Delta Waterfowl on a project at a level of \$100,000 for the next 3 years which would enhance, perpetually ease and restore 3,970 acres in the same areas Louisiana has funded in the past. A description was given of how Louisiana's dollar becomes \$5 which would turn this state's \$300,000 into \$1.5 million over 3 years. "Why Manitoba?" was explained as the need for small temporal waters to sustain continental waterfowl populations, it is a North American Waterfowl Management Plan Prairie Habitat Joint Venture priority and it is a duck factory for Louisiana hunters. Two interesting facts from the why Manitoba discussion was that: 1) 29% of all the hatch-year birds banded in the Canadian PPR, then harvested in Louisiana, were hatched in Manitoba and 2) Louisiana harvests the second most Manitoba fledged ducks. Mr. Davis then gave the Commission an idea of what to expect (timely and thorough progress updates, provide full accounting of expenses, easements, restoration and hen houses, and provide a comprehensive full report). Also provided was what will be achieved: 3,970 acres of perpetually eased, enhanced and/or restored wetlands, more ducks and happy Louisiana hunters. Mr. Davis thanked the Commission for their time and

consideration and then he invited them to join him to see some of those lands. (A copy of Mr. Davis's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

**Commissioner McPherson** asked Mr. Davis, of the \$300,000, how many acres would go under perpetual easements in this project and he was told 685 acres would be put under perpetual easements. **Commissioner McPherson** then asked what would be the total acreage with the matched funds and Mr. Davis stated 1285 acres for perpetual easements, 130 acres for restoration and another 2500 acres enhanced through hen houses.

Mr. Bryan Leach, Senior Regional Director, stated he was representing Louisiana's 26 Chapters and 6800 members and asked the Commission to consider Delta Waterfowl's proposal. He emphasized that the Manitoba Prairie Pothole Region was important for Louisiana and noted Delta Waterfowl was only asking for one-third of the funds.

Mr. Jonathan Walker, Baton Rouge, stated he was a volunteer for Delta Waterfowl and felt that both Delta Waterfowl and Ducks Unlimited had a great working relationship with the Department. He knew that some of the policies from each organization were not popular. Mr. Walker talked about some of Delta Waterfowl's volunteer efforts (predator management, delivering hen houses and wading into ponds to harvest weevils to give duck hunters with salvinia problems) to help duck hunters. He felt that both organizations should be rewarded for their hard work in providing duck hunting opportunities and ducks to Louisiana.

Mr. Pat Kehoe, Director of International Partnerships, Ducks Unlimited Canada was the next presenter for the agenda item **Receive Presentation on "Securing a Legacy of Habitat in Saskatchewan with Enduring Benefits for Current and Future Generations to Enjoy"** **Proposal.** Mr. Kehoe began stating Ducks Unlimited was a leader in wetland conservation with 80 years of success, have permanently secured 6.4 million acres on the Canadian breeding grounds and participated in over 10,000 conservation projects. Louisiana's Ducks Unlimited Chapters have supported DU since its inception in 1937. Mr. Kehoe talked about band recoveries from ducks harvested in Louisiana and the factors contributing to successful production (nest success, hen success, etc.) occurs while the ducks are in Prairie Canada. A map of Canada's Prairie Pothole Region was shown with over 60% of ducks breeding in Saskatchewan, 10% or less in Manitoba and 30% in Alberta. Breeding ducks need water/ponds and grass. Mr. Kehoe talked about habitat loss that was occurring in Canada due mainly to agricultural interests, the challenges being faced (wetland drainage and annual cropping) and conservation actions that were needed. Also discussed was a Prairie Habitat Joint Venture Assessment Study which resulted in a tool called the waterfowl productivity model. This tool was shown how it can be used on the landscape to help with duck success. Ducks Unlimited's proposal would concentrate on habitat retention (protect existing prairie grassland and associated upland habitat wetlands from further loss or degradation), upland restoration (restore upland habitat converting cultivated lands to grasslands or other quality nesting cover) and habitat asset management (manage an existing 175,000 acres previously secured in partnership with the Department). Mr. Kehoe explained how the Department's funds of \$320,000 per year for 3 years could become almost \$5 million in Canadian money. A chart of the specific initiatives from Louisiana's dollars was then described. (A copy of Mr. Kehoe's presentation is included in the Appendices Section of the Minutes.)

**Commissioner McPherson** asked if the lands that Ducks Unlimited buys were bought so they could restore the wetlands and upgrade the habitat and then resell it and Mr. Kehoe stated that was part of the program which Ducks Unlimited decided was the best route to keep from having to pay heavy taxes and includes having the permanent protection of the habitat features restored. **Commissioner McPherson** asked how was long time security gained when holding the land as opposed to taking perpetual easements and Mr. Kehoe commented that conservation easement legislation has only been around for 10-15 years. **Commissioner McPherson** asked what was the value of land owned by Ducks Unlimited in Canada to which Mr. Kehoe stated he would have to get that number for the Commissioner. **Commissioner McPherson** asked, under existing law, an individual could sell the land and put it back into commerce and have a tremendous amount of money to which Mr. Kehoe replied that is what they were doing under the revolving land program. **Commissioner McPherson** asked how would the \$960,000 be used and the explanation for perpetual conservation easements and conservation agreements was given by Mr. Kehoe. Then Mr. Kehoe explained why Ducks Unlimited's proposal included buying lands as opposed to buying perpetual easements. **Commissioner McPherson** felt the goal should be to preserve as many acres as possible and keep it in commerce.

**Commissioner Courville** made a motion to **Set October 2018 Commission Meeting Date** as October 4, 2018 beginning at 9:30 AM, seconded by **Commissioner Yakupzack** and approved by all.

**Chairman Samanie** then asked for **Public Comments** and none were heard.

**Commissioner Courville** made a motion for **Adjournment**, seconded by **Commissioner Hogan** and unanimously approved.

## **APPENDICES**

# WILDLIFE & FISHERIES LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2018 REGULAR SESSION



## Government Bills



- **HB 129 – Exempts LDWF from Capital Outlay Process**
  - Exempts LDWF construction projects up to \$500K before having to go to capital outlay
  - Expected to save time and money, but must have oversight from legislative committees and use own funding
  - Vetoed – The legislative oversight was overly intrusive and slowed the process
- **HB 189 – Provides for a Review of Agency Rules on a Recurring Basis**
  - Each agency must review all rules on a 6 year cycle
  - Heavily amended in House Committee to be less burdensome to agencies
  - Signed as Act 454; Effective 1/1/19
- **HB 345 – Prohibits the Use of Conservation Fund for Building Acquisition without Legislative Approval**
  - Response to granting LDWF approval to use Conservation Fund on an interim basis to acquire the Lafayette Building
  - Vetoed – This bill improperly interferes with operations of the executive branch
- **SB 474 – Increases Capital Outlay Exemption for Projects**
  - Would raise capital outlay cap from \$150K to \$1M
  - Amended in committee to \$500K – similar to what LDWF is seeking with HB 129
  - Amended on Senate Floor to \$300K threshold
  - Passed Senate 32-1; Passed Ways and Means; Recommitted to Appropriations





## Licensing Bills



- **HB 4 – Extends the sunset date for LA CREEL to 2022**
  - Since 2014, \$7.50 of each saltwater fishing license has been dedicated to the Saltwater Fish Research and Conservation Fund
  - Generates approximately \$1.7M annually and entirely funds LA CREEL Program
  - Amended in Senate Natural Resources authorizing the WLF Commission to increase license fees by up to \$2 and authorizes the use of \$2M of Artificial Reef Fund to conduct a saltwater fish stock estimate
  - SCR 95 accompanied the bill urging DWH Trustees to use TIG funds to monitor fisheries stocks
  - Signed as Act 41; Effective 5/10/18
- **HB 549 – Registration of House Boats**
  - Establishes registration of non-motorized house boats
  - Dedicates funding for river cleanup
  - Signed as Act 628; Effective 1/1/19
- **HB 687 – Recreational Hunting and Fishing License Restructure**
  - Last updated in 2000 – 36% inflation since that time
  - Proposal will simplify license system and provide an intuitive purchasing experience
  - Maximizes federal matching funds by certifying hunters and anglers – results in \$1.4M
  - Establishes a more predictable and stable funding source than mineral revenue
  - Puts Louisiana on equal-footing with southeastern and Gulf states for resident and nonresident fees
  - Consolidates many privileges into a few licenses, so many users will save money
  - Reported favorable out of HNRC with a 12-3 vote; Failed to pass the House (54-27)



## Wildlife Bills



- **HB 114 – Prohibits Capture, Sale, or Transport of Common Musk Turtles**
  - To prevent overharvest of the species for commercial use/aquarium and pet trade
  - Voluntarily Deferred in HNRC
- **HB 130 – Provides for the Establishment of Airboat Trails on WMAs**
  - Requires establishment of airboat trails on WMAs where feasible
  - Would include motor size and muffler restrictions and registration requirements
  - Signed as Act 618; Effective 8/1/18
- **HB 197 – Prohibits Importation of Live Deer**
  - Drafted to affect both LDWF and LDAF
  - Amended in Ag Committee to remove LDAF
  - Signed as Act 67; Effective 8/1/18
- **HB 226 – Criminalizes Unpermitted Transport of Feral Hogs**
  - Creates the crime of illegal transport of feral hogs
  - \$900 criminal fine
  - Amended on Senate Floor to exempt Uncle Earl's Hog Dog Trials
  - Enrolled
- **HB 228 – Prohibits Erection of Stands or Hunting Near Property Boundaries**
  - No hunting activity for deer or turkey within 50 yards of a property line
  - Pending HNRC
- **HCR 83 – Urges LDWF to authorize increased feral hog hunting opportunities on WMAs**





# Wildlife Bills



- **HB 456 – Authorizes Shooting Bear in Self-Defense**
  - Hunter believes he's in imminent danger and action is necessary to save himself
  - Pending HNRC
- **SB 688 – Corrects Statutory References to Litter Program in DEQ**
  - Litter abatement and control funding rests with LEEC Section
  - This bill clarifies the authorities and responsibilities of the section within LDWF
  - Signed as Act 509; Effective 8/1/18
- **HB 714 – Sets Turkey Hunting Season Dates**
  - Open no later than March 15<sup>th</sup> and close no earlier than May 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Vote failed in House Natural Resources Committee 2-13
- **HB 411 – Exempts the Tickfaw River from Certain Restrictions of the Natural and Scenic Rivers Program**
  - Would add the Tickfaw River to the list of Scenic Rivers that allow for clearing, snagging and dredging by government entities
  - Signed as Act 430; Effective 6/30/18
- **SB 430/SB 490 – Removes/Suspends Inclusion of Comite River and Bayou Manchac in the Scenic Rivers Program**
  - A bill last year allowed for clearing and snagging of these rivers
  - Amended in SNRC with a substitute bill to suspend the restrictions of the program on these waterbodies for 3 years
  - Signed as Act 163; Effective 8/1/18



# Fisheries Bills

- **HB 391 – Provides Public Access to Running Waters of the State**
  - If you can float it, you can boat it (maybe) - March 2<sup>nd</sup> Grandfather
  - Doesn't determine ownership and motorized vessels can't damage land
  - Failed to pass House (38-58)
  - HGR 60 and SCR 99 establishes Task Forces to study issue
- **HB 425 – Includes Charter Guides as Certified Commercial Activities**
  - LDWF certifies commercial fisherman as such if they show 50% of their income is derived from that activity
  - Charter captains are not "Commercial Fisherman" because they cannot sell their catch, however, it is a commercial endeavor
  - Signed as Act 165; Effective 5/15/18
- **HB 706 – Possession of Fillets on the Water**
  - Allows for possession limit of trout, redfish and flounder when traversing between a camp and a launch
  - Amended fillets must be 10" for Speckled Trout and 14" for Redfish and must contain skin on for identification purposes
  - Signed as Act 462; Effective 8/1/18
- **SB 327 – Possession Limits of Certain Fish Species on the Water**
  - Allows for 3x daily creel limit if possessed on the water during transport between a camp and a launch
  - Must be whole or gutted; must have a launch receipt for the corresponding days on water; must be in bags and labeled with date taken, species, and license number; cannot actively fish during transport
  - Signed as Act 40; Effective 5/10/18





# Fisheries Bills



- **HB 624 – Provides for a Standard Oyster Basket and Creates a Mini-Sack**

- Basket is equal to 1 and ½ bushels (LA Sack)
- Mini-sack is ½ of a bushel (1/3 of a LA Sack)
- Signed as Act 172; Effective 8/1/18

- **HB 722 – Wholesome and Marketable Oysters**

- Currently no definition for a wholesome and marketable oyster
- Establishes 3" size limit on all oyster harvest and 5% non-living
- Establishes penalties – Class 6
- Vote failed in HNRC 6-9

- **HB 799 – Disposition of Derelict Crab Traps**

- Would not mandate disposal of traps collected during closures
- Signed as Act 338; Effective 8/1/18

- **HB 812 – Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board**

- Ads LDWF and other non-voting members for quorum purposes
- Enrolled

- **SB 176 – Sibley Lake Crappie Limits**

- Reduces daily take limits for crappie to 25
- Voluntarily deferred in SNRC

- **SB 451 – Institutes Permanent Moratorium on Oyster Harvest in Sabine Lake**

- No harvest
- Signed as Act 159; Effective 8/1/18

- **SB 453 – Allows Limited Dredging Calcasieu Lake**

- Limited to previous harvesters
- Commission would establish areas of harvest
- Pending SNRC



# Enforcement Bills

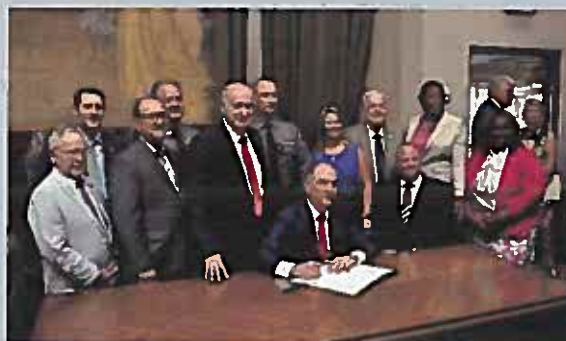


- **HB 37 – Retirement Benefits for Agents Permanently Disabled by Intentional Act of Violence**

- Sgt. Scott Bullitt was intentionally shot and permanently disabled in May 2015. At the time he had only 5 years' service and had not vested for purposes of retirement nor insurance coverage.
- This measure would provide for full retirement and insurance coverage as if Sgt. Bullitt or anyone similarly situated had worked for 20 years.
- Would also include Public Safety Service, Harbor Police, and Corrections.
- Signed as Act 595; Effective 5/31/18

- **SB 3 – Benefits for Survivors of Haz Duty Plan Members Killed in Action by Intentional Act of Violence**

- 100% of the Agent's average compensation, regardless of years of service to surviving beneficiaries
- Signed as Act 224; Effective 5/15/18



# Questions?





## 2018 Recreational Red Snapper Season Update

Jason Adriance | Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meeting | June 7, 2018

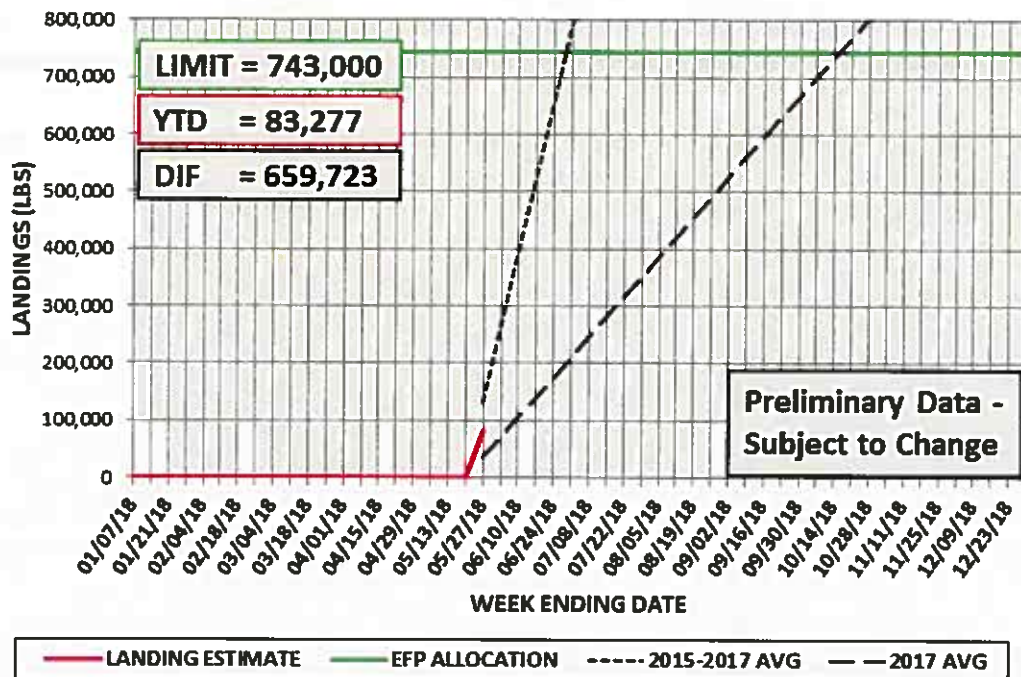
2018 Red Snapper Weekly Landing Estimates						
Landings (lbs)						
Week	Begin Date	End Date	State Charter	Private Recreational	Total	Percentage of Allocation
*21	5/21/2018	5/27/2018	0	83,277	83,277	11%
22	5/28/2018	6/3/2018				
23	6/4/2018	6/10/2018				
24	6/11/2018	6/17/2018				
25	6/18/2018	6/24/2018				
26	6/25/2018	7/1/2018				
27	7/2/2018	7/8/2018				
28	7/9/2018	7/15/2018				
Average Weekly Landing			0	83,277	83,277	11%

\*Week 21 season only open on 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup> (3 days)

Year	Week	Charter (lbs)	Private Recreational (lbs)	Holiday	Private EEZ Days	Fed Charter EEZ Days
2014	5/26-6/1	4,330	16,609	Memorial Day	1	1
2014	6/2-6/8	23,819	217,564	Federal Opening	7	7
2014	6/30-7/6	0	28,035	Independence Day	0	0
2015	5/25-5/31	11,488	41,006	Memorial Day	0	0
2015	6/1-6/7	33,752	383,282	Federal Opening	7	7
2015	6/29-7/5	8,004	110,975	Independence Day	0	7
2016	5/23-5/29	12,936	27,788	Memorial Day	0	0
2016	5/30-6/5	7,576	51,156	Federal Opening	5	5
2016	6/27-7/3	29,068	56,617	Independence Day	0	7
2017	5/22-5/28	4,657	3,289	Memorial Day	0	0
2017	5/29-6/4	23,456	25,663	Federal Opening	3	4
2017	7/3-7/9	8,784	106,742	Independence Day	5	7



# LOUISIANA'S 2018 RED SNAPPER LANDING ESTIMATES (LA CREEL - PRIVATE ANGLER + STATE CHARTER)



Questions?







## **Proposed 2019 Blue Crab Harvest Regulations**

Peyton Cagle | Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission | June 7, 2018

### **Recent History of Blue Crab Harvest Regulation**

- The 2016 blue crab stock assessment indicated that the blue crab stock was overfished in 2015.
- At the recommendation of the LCTF, the LWFC established a 30-day full closure in the spring to address the overfished status.
- The closure resulted in negative feedback from the industry regarding impacts on price and market share.
- In response, the LCTF recommended changing to a 60-day female restriction in the spring.
- The LWFC adopted the new rule and the 60-day female restriction this spring recently concluded.
- Additional concerns have been voiced from the industry and the LCTF has recommended the change proposed today.



## Effects of Recent Regulations

Based on a three year average, the 30-day full closure in the spring reduced landings and dockside value by approximately 50%

1. -1,381,609 pounds
2. -\$3,027,726

Based on a three year average, the 60-day female restriction in the spring reduced landings and dockside value by approximately 38%

1. -1,580,392 pounds
2. -\$3,218,490



## Management Goals and Options

In an effort to reduce total annual landings by an amount not less than the full 30-day spring closure (1.3 million pounds), LDWF provided the LCTF with 4 options:

- Maintain 60-day female restriction in the spring
- 12-day full closure in September
- 12-day full closure in October
- 35-day female restriction in the fall



# Louisiana Crab Task Force Meeting

March 2018

- Presented management options as requested.
- LCTF decided to collect public comment from the industry for two months before a final decision was made at the May meeting.

May 2018

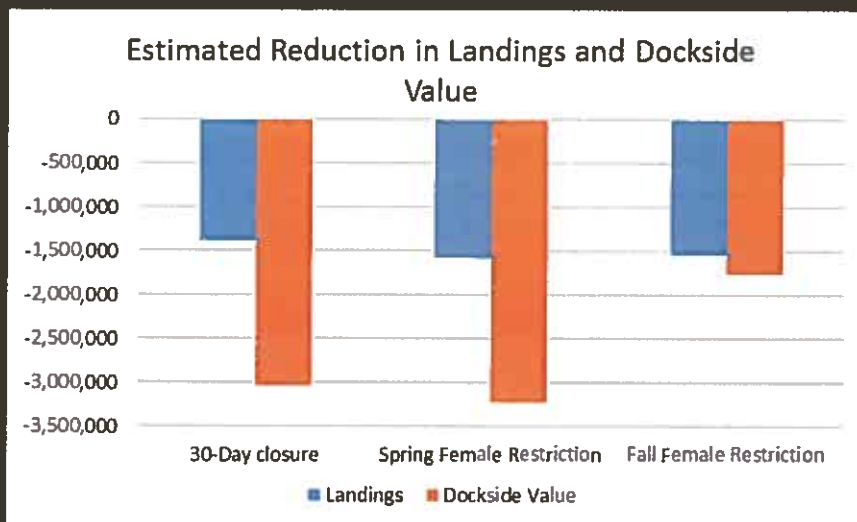
- The LCTF approved a motion to recommend a 35-day female restriction in the fall.
- This option allowed fishermen to shrimp during the restriction and it would not require removal of traps.



## Proposed Regulation

Based on a three year average, the proposed 35-day female restriction in the fall will reduce landings and dockside value by approximately 33%

1. -1,535,974 pounds
2. -\$1,762,341



# QUESTIONS?

Peyton Cagle  
Crustacean Program Manager  
(337)491-2575 ext. 3017  
[peyton.cagle@la.gov](mailto:peyton.cagle@la.gov)

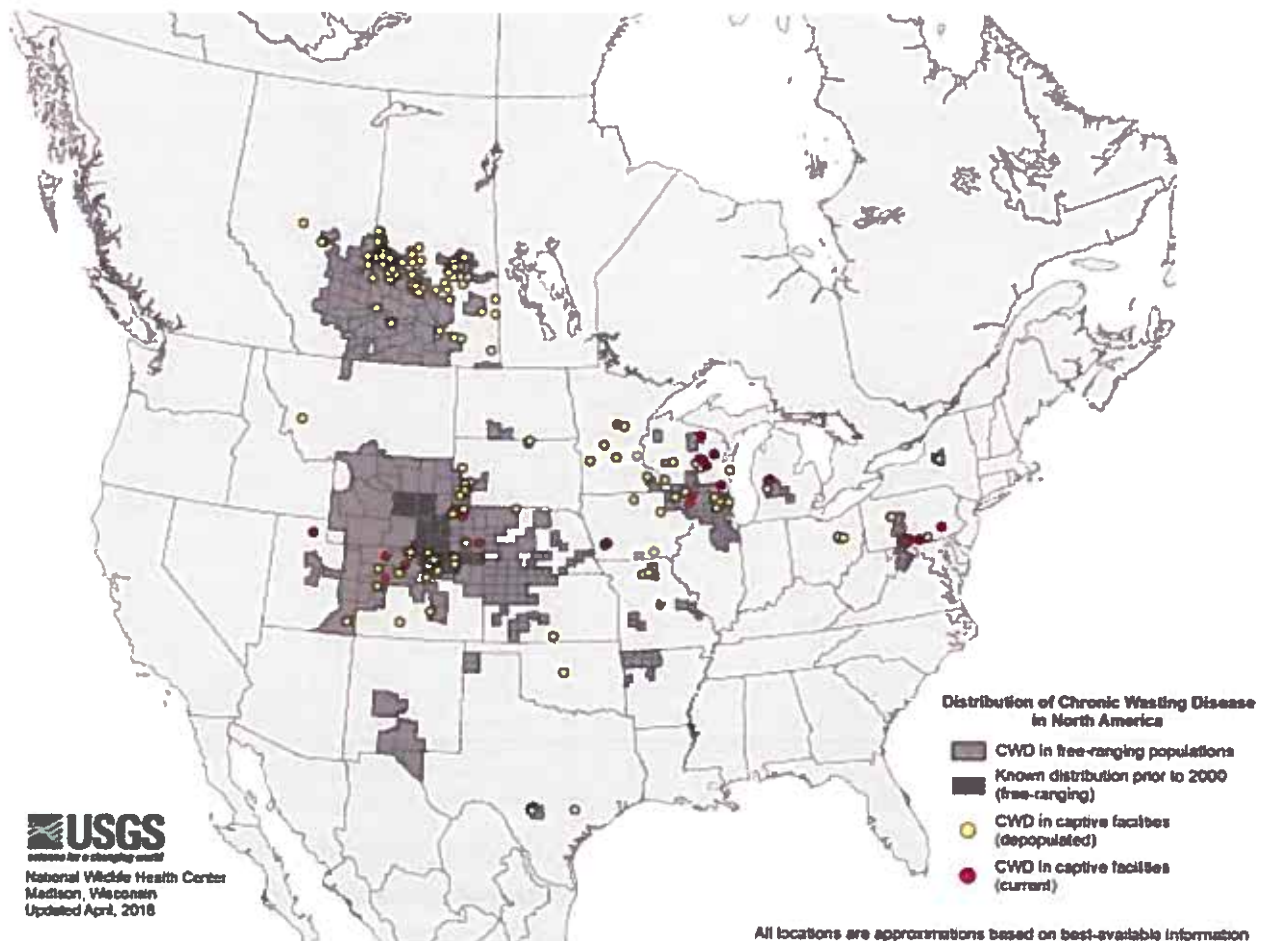






# LDWF Response to MDWFP CWD Discovery Update

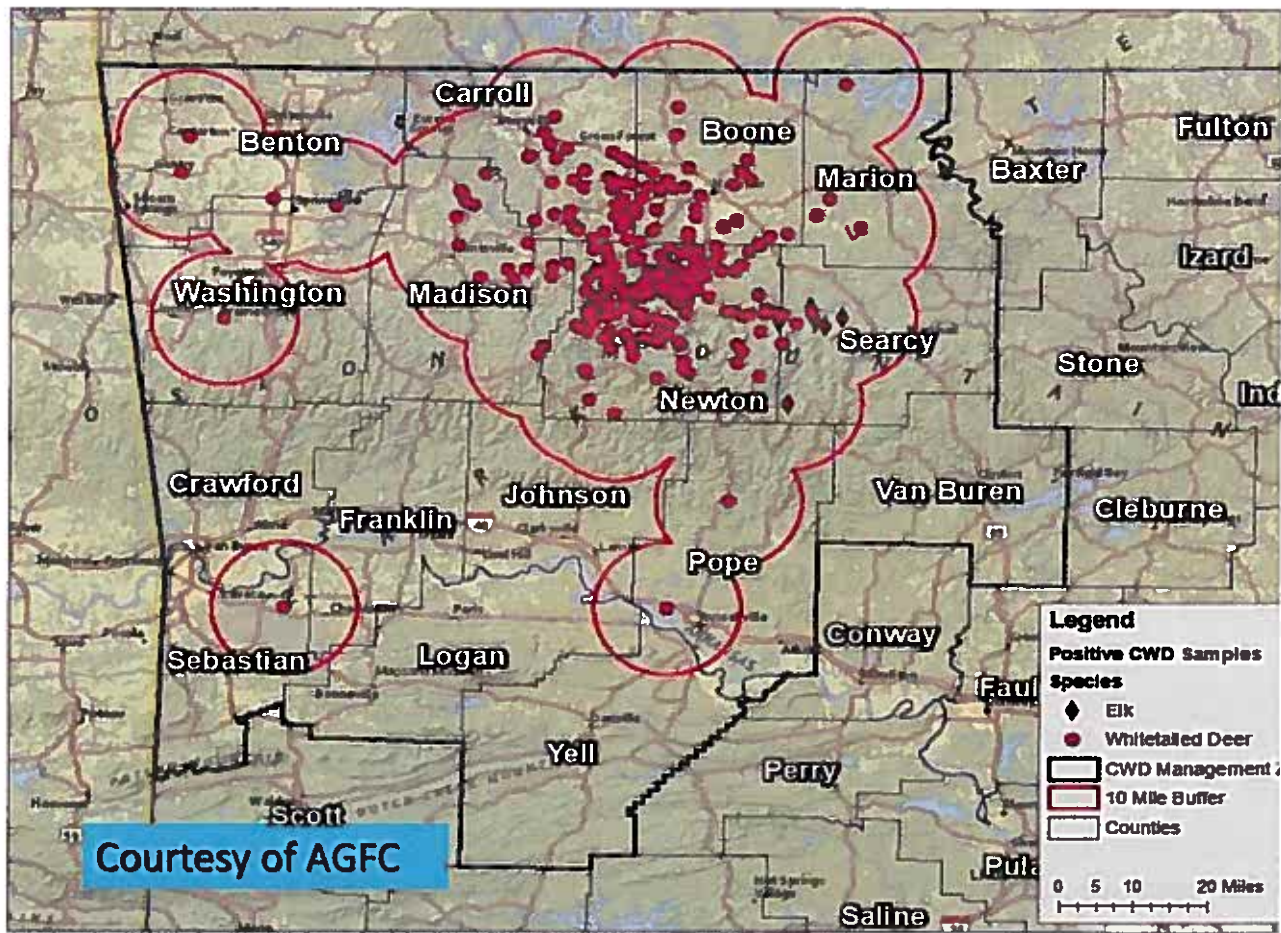
Johnathan Bordelon  
Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Deer Program Manager





# CWD Update Texas

- First confirmed in free ranging Mule Deer in an isolated area of far West Texas (13 positives).
- 3 mule deer and 1 elk in Dallam and Hartley counties, located in the northwest Panhandle.
- First white-tailed deer found in a captive breeding facility (2015). Since it has been traced to 4 additional breeding facilities and 2 release sites adjacent to the breeding facilities.
- First free-ranging white-tailed deer in Medina County (2017).
- 50 CWD Positive Deer and elk to date, 32 associated with captive facilities, 16 from free-ranging mule deer, 1 free-ranging elk, and 1 free ranging white-tailed deer.
- Mandatory testing within CWD Zones.
- Carcass export restrictions for CWD Zones.

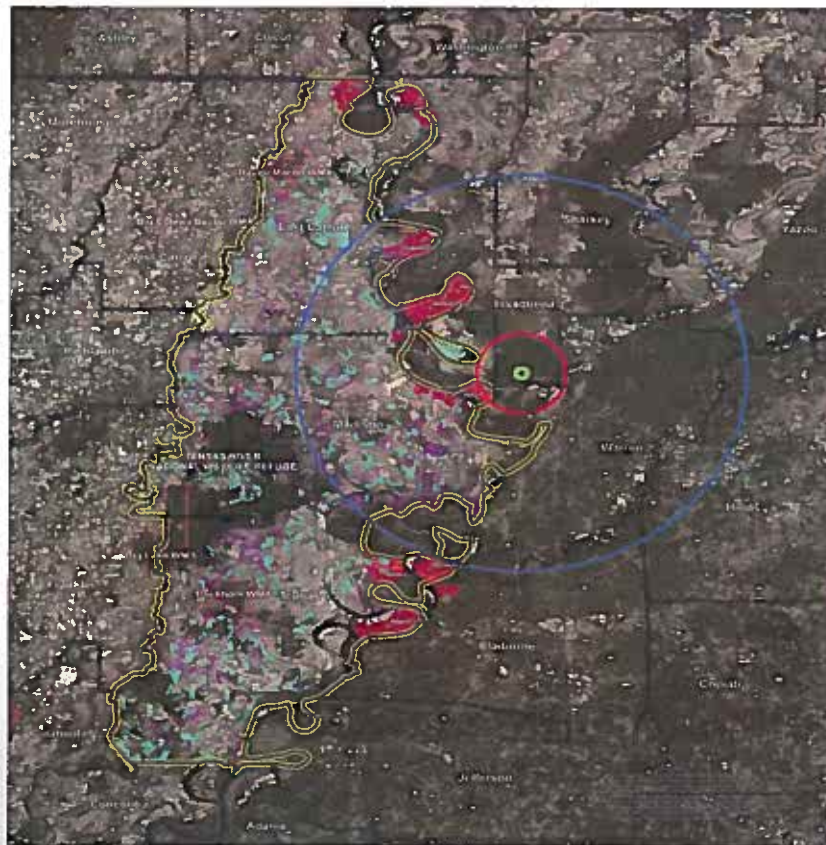






# CWD Update Arkansas

- First confirmed in free ranging elk in 2016.
- 343 white-tailed deer and 14 elk have tested positive to date.
- 23% prevalence in Newton County.
- 10 counties in NW Arkansas have at least 1 positive white-tailed deer and 2 of those have tested positive elk.
- Baiting allowed during hunting season.
- Carcass export restrictions for CWD zone.



**Louisiana CWD Management Zones**





## CWD Update Mississippi

- 4.5 yr. old buck reported to MDWFP January 25, 2018.
- CWD Confirmed by NVSL February 9, 2018. No additional positives.
- **291** samples: CWD Management Zone road-killed, hunter harvested, crop depredation permit, or reported diseased samples collected to date.
- **375** samples: CWD Management Zone collection efforts. Warren 179, Issaquena 152, Yazoo 37, Sharkey 7, Claiborne 0, Hinds 0.
- Immediate Executive Order to prohibit supplemental feeding in Claiborne, Hinds, Issaquena, Sharkey, Warren and Yazoo counties. (Plans to continue the feeding ban in the 6 county CWD area.
- 6 mandatory CWD sampling days in the 6 county CWD area.



## Louisiana Response

- Implement CWD Response Plan.
- Targeted culling of 300 deer within the 25 mile buffer zone (104,537 acres of habitat). Probability of detecting 1 positive deer out of 100 with 95% confidence.
- Collection of hunter harvested samples within the surveillance zone beginning in the 2018/19 hunting season.
- Emergency Declaration prohibiting supplemental feeding in the parishes of East Carroll, Madison and Tensas.



## Louisiana Response

	East Carroll	Madison	Tensas	Total
<b>Landowner Consent</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Properties Sampled</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Deer Collected</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Samples Shipped</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Results</b>	<b>87</b> (Not Detected)	<b>146</b> (Not Detected)	<b>67</b> (Not Detected)	<b>300</b> (Not Detected)



## Louisiana Response

- Target an additional 300 (hunter harvested) samples from the 3 parish surveillance area.
- Collect samples (hunter harvested) during managed deer hunts on Bayou Macon, Big Lake and Buckhorn WMA, and Tensas NWR.
- Available testing for the public through LDWF regional offices.
- Collection of hunter harvested samples from DMAP clubs within the surveillance area.
- Explore testing through taxidermist.
- Continue statewide testing.
- Recommend cessation of supplemental feeding to hunters.
- Continued outreach to hunters and landowners.





Louisiana  
FY2019 – 2021  
Proposal



The Manitoba Waterfowl  
Habitat Securement Project  
FY19 – FY21  
May 2018



A Proposal to the  
Louisiana Department of  
Wildlife and Fisheries

Securing Crucial Manitoba  
Wetlands to Help Ensure a  
Brighter Future for Ducks  
and Louisiana Duck  
Hunters

Delta Waterfowl Foundation  
*The Duck Hunters Organization*

Joel Brice  
Vice President of Waterfowl and  
Hunter Recruitment

John Davis  
Vice President of Development

## What We'll Cover Today

- LDWF and DWF: An Ideal Partnership
- Who is Delta Waterfowl Foundation and Our Presence in Louisiana
- A Critical Need in Manitoba – The Proposal
- The Significance of Your Investment in the Future of Waterfowl



# Delta Waterfowl: An Ideal Partner



Constituent:  
Waterfowl Hunter



**Vision:** Abundant Waterfowl and  
Endless Opportunities for Hunters

**Mission:** To Produce Ducks and  
Secure the Future of Waterfowling

Research

Duck  
Production

Habitat  
Policy

Hunter  
Recruitment

Hunter  
Access

1. Does it produce ducks?
2. Does it produce duck hunters?



## Continental Leader in Waterfowl Research

- Founded in 1911, the oldest continually operating waterfowl conservation organization in North America (1911: Manitoba, Canada)
- Over 600 peer-reviewed publications and 300 graduate level students



## Duck Production

- Predator Management Program
- Hen House Program



## Habitat Conservation

- Farm Bill, Working Wetlands, ALUS, GROW
- Adopt – A – Pothole





# Hunter Recruitment, Access and Opportunity

- First Hunt, University Hunt, Mentor Program
- Local, State and Federal Hunting Defense and Advocacy



## Delta Presence in Louisiana

- 26 Chapters and 6,800 members
- Approximately \$450,000 Invested in 251 projects
- 5,300 Hunter Recruitment Participants
- \$50,000 in Scholarships
- Recent Research: Giant Salvinia / Weevil, Specklebelly Telemetry, Hunter Human Dimensions (Dr. Luke LaBorde, LSU), Mottled Duck Project



# Proposal: Working to Address a Crucial Need

Respectfully, we ask for your partnership!

**Request:** \$100,000 per year for 3 years = \$300,000

**Accomplishments:** 3,970 acres protected and enhanced

- 1,285 acres perpetual easements
- 130 acres restored wetlands
- 2,550 acres enhanced through 1,700 Hen Houses (PHJV Directive)



## Louisiana Dollar Becomes Five



Source of Funds	Amount
LDWF	\$300,000
Environment Canada	\$300,000
NAWCA	\$600,000
MHHC	\$300,000
	<b>\$1,500,000</b>

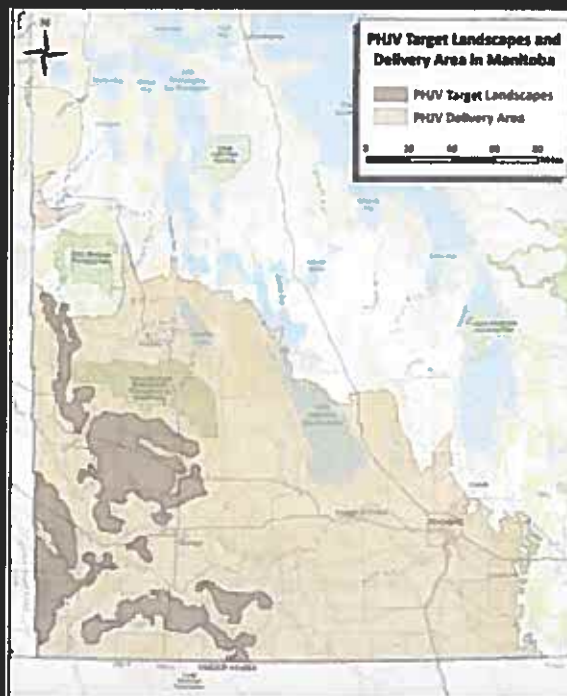
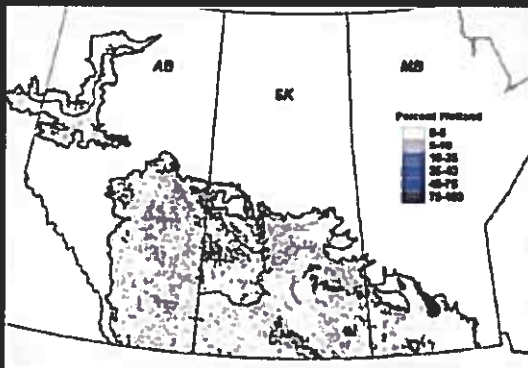


## Why Manitoba?

- 6% decadal rate of basin loss (4.3% area) vs. 3.7% across CAD PPR
- Key Prairie Habitat Joint Venture Target Landscapes
- Considerable portion of CAD PPR ducks are hatched there



## Why Manitoba? It's a NAWMP PHJV Priority



- Minnedosa Shoal
- Alexander Griswold
- Virden
- Kilarney





# Why Manitoba? It's a Duck Factory for Louisiana Hunters

Table 1 - Proportion of Louisiana's Top 10 harvested species (for 2016) hatched in Manitoba relative to other Canadian provinces

Species	Louisiana Harvest <sup>1</sup>	Harvest Rank	Manitoba Contribution <sup>2</sup>
Gadwall	206,801	1	14%
Green-winged Teal	203,352	2	20%
Blue-winged	102,090	3	22%
Wood Duck	84,017	4	94%
Mallard	70,773	5	27%
Northern Shoveler	48,286	6	39%
Ring-necked Duck	42,491	7	33%
Northern Pintail	27,316	8	20%
Wigeon	16,279	9	12%
Canvasback	11,589	10	35%

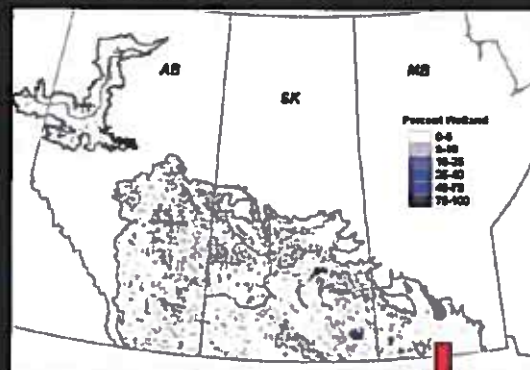
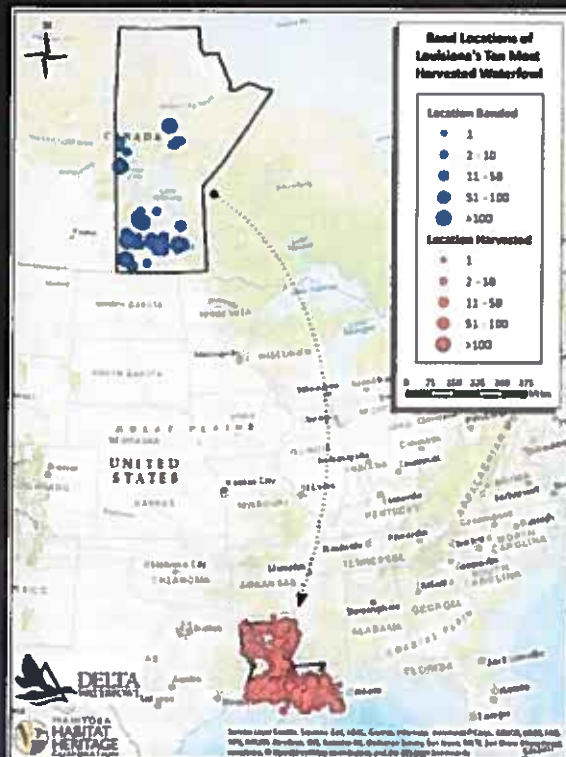
<sup>1</sup> Based on 2016 harvest data.

Olszewski, R.V., S.C. Chandler, and K.K. Fleming. 2017. Migratory bird hunting activity during the 2015-16 and 2016-17 hunting seasons. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, Maryland, USA.)

<sup>2</sup> Hatch-year band recoveries only – data not corrected for banding effort.



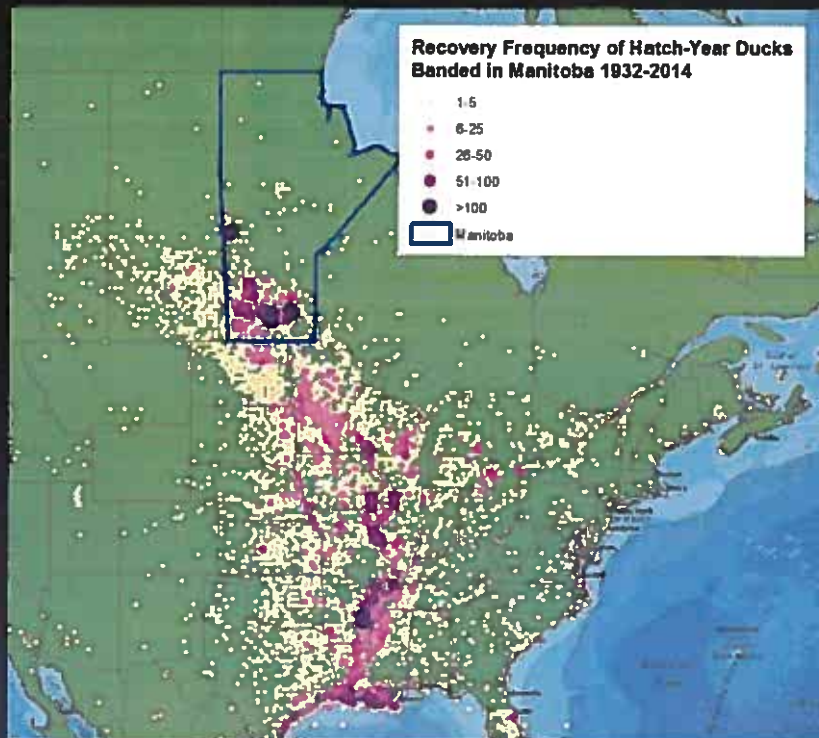
# Why Manitoba? It's a Duck Factory for Louisiana Hunters



Of all the hatch-year birds banded in the Canadian PPR, then harvested in Louisiana, 29% were hatched in Manitoba.



# Why Manitoba? It's a Duck Factory for Louisiana Hunters



Louisiana harvests the 2<sup>nd</sup> most Manitoba fledged ducks



## Partnership Expectations and Outcomes

What you can expect:

- Timely and thorough progress updates
- Intense stewardship of your dollar
- Full accounting of expenses, easements, restoration and hen houses
- Comprehensive final report

What we will achieve:

- 3,970 acres of perpetually eased, enhanced and restored wetlands
- More ducks
- Happy Louisiana hunters





Thank you for your time and consideration.

We invite you to join us on the breeding  
grounds next year!





## **Ducks Unlimited- Leader In Wetland Conservation**

- 80 years success and experience in Habitat Conservation
- 6.4 M acres on the Canadian breeding ground
- 10,366 individual conservation projects
- Evaluation and adaptation
- Programs aligned to NAWMP goals
- High and long term return to investors





## DU and Louisiana

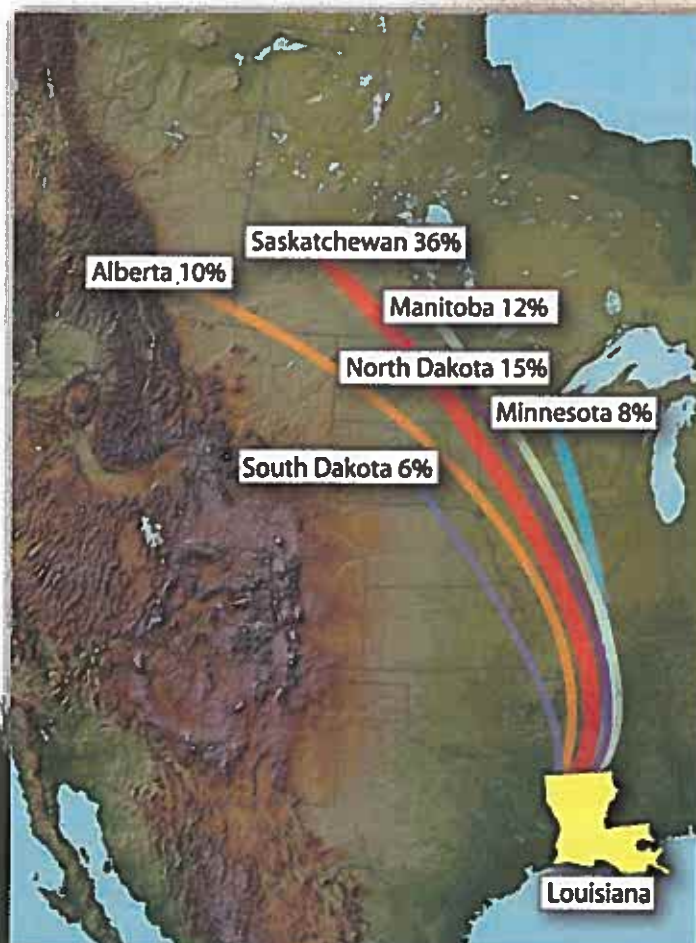
- Louisiana sportsmen have supported DU since its inception in 1937
- Partnership has resulted in enduring benefits to Louisiana hunters



## BAND RECOVERIES

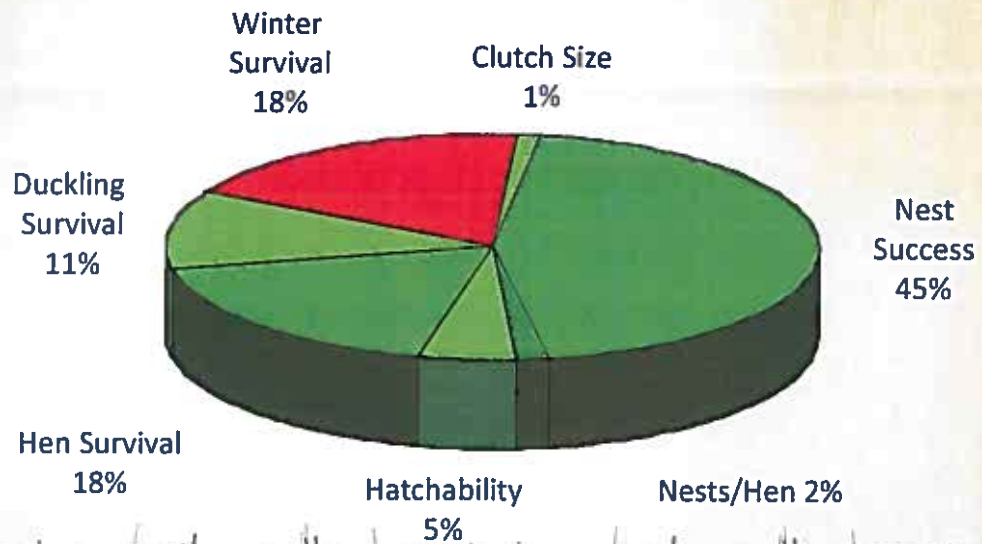
Origin of ducks  
harvested in  
Louisiana from  
1986-2012.

*Recent mallard harvest  
derivation analysis established  
that 69% of mallards harvested  
in Louisiana come from the  
Canadian PPR*





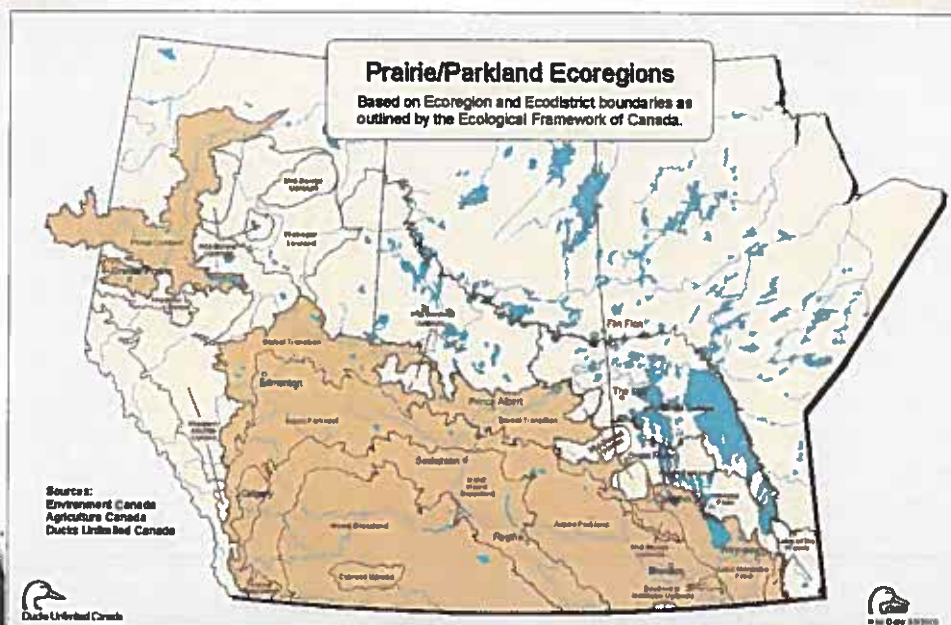
## The Canadian Prairies are Critical to Waterfowl Production



**Over 80% of the factors contributing to successful production occur while the ducks are in Prairie Canada.**



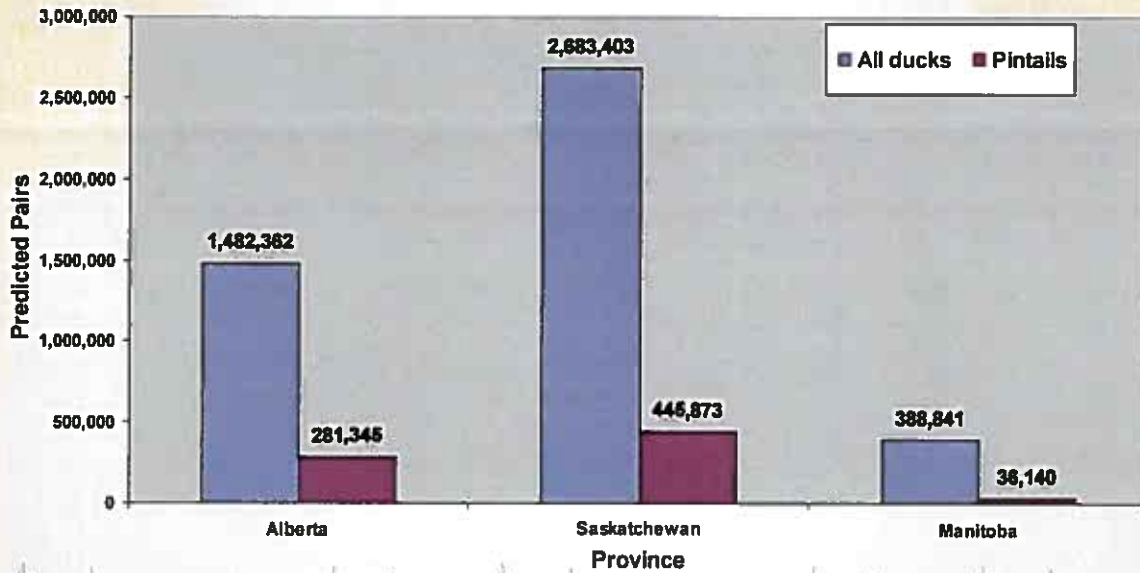
## Canadian Prairie Pothole Region



On average just over 50% of the continents ducks breed here



## Predicted Breeding Pairs by Province

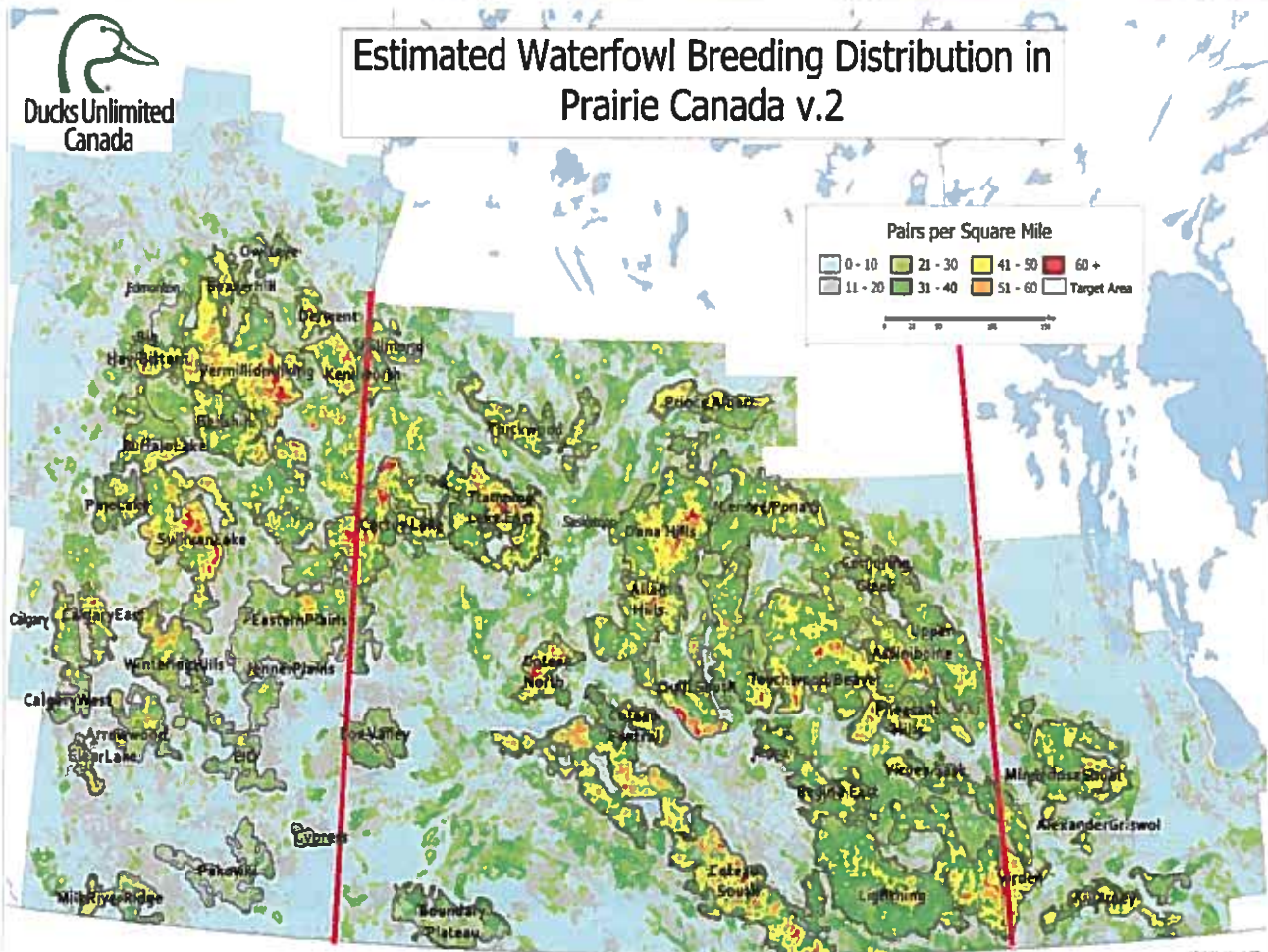


On average over 60% of Canada's PPR ducks breed in Saskatchewan



Ducks Unlimited  
Canada

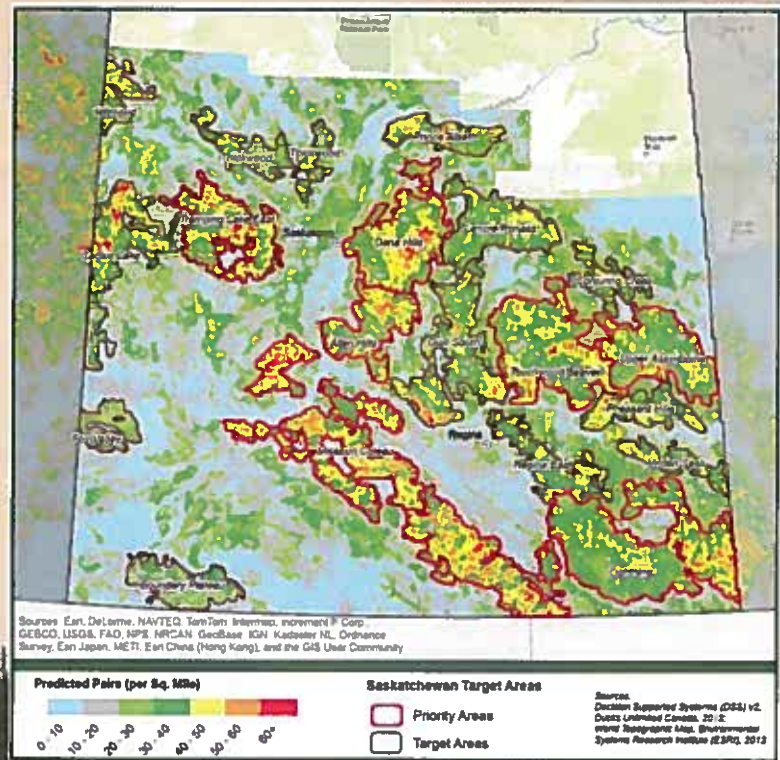
## Estimated Waterfowl Breeding Distribution in Prairie Canada v.2





## SASKATCHEWAN PRIORITY AREAS

DUC's efforts in the Prairies align with the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture (PHJV) waterfowl target areas established to direct waterfowl-related resources towards areas with the highest need and where activities benefit the most birds.



## Breeding Ducks Need Water and Grass

### Ponds

- habitat for breeding pairs and broods
- food production for pairs and broods

### Grass

- nesting habitat for most species





## Habitat Loss



### *The Challenges*

Wetland Drainage



Annual Crops





# Conservation Actions

- Continued wetland loss and degradation decreases the carrying capacity*
- Need to conserve and restore habitat in critical landscapes*
- Need to find ways to work with cultivation agriculture*
- Cattle Industry needs support to keep grass on the ground*



## Science Based Conservation Solutions

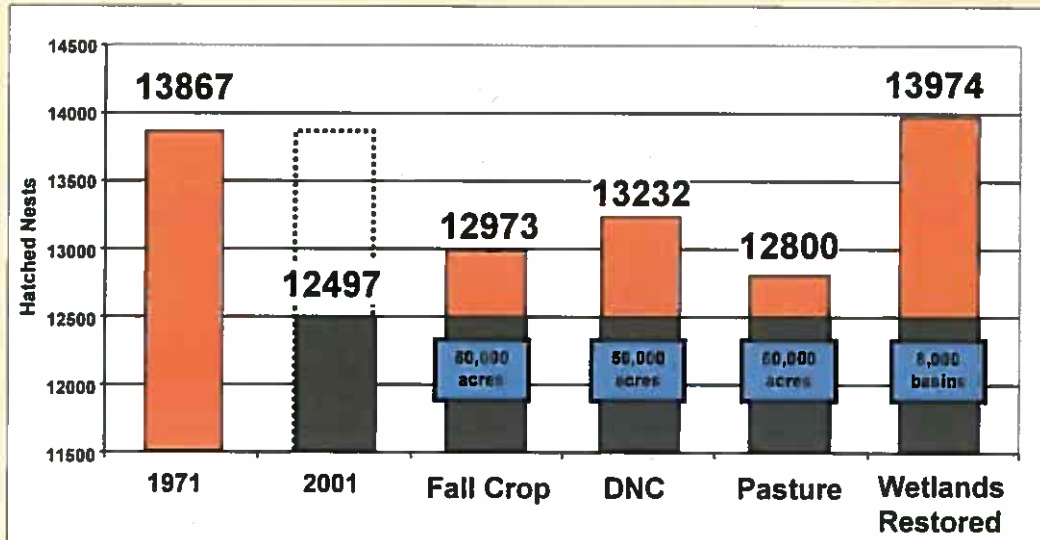
PHJV Assessment Study provides science to allow us to Blend programs to individual landscape conditions.

- 10 year study
- 2500 radioed hen mallards
- documented breeding success in various habitats
- Waterfowl productivity model





## Landscape example



CONSERVATION PROPOSAL TO  
**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT  
 OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**

SECURING A LEGACY OF HABITAT  
 CONSERVATION IN SASKATCHEWAN  
 WITH ENDURING BENEFITS FOR CURRENT  
 AND FUTURE GENERATIONS TO ENJOY

2019-2021 Conservation Proposal  
 Submitted by Ducks Unlimited Canada  
 and Ducks Unlimited Inc.  
 May 25, 2018

Ducks Unlimited Canada

DUCKS UNLIMITED

Proposal based  
 on \$320,000 per  
 year from LDWF



# **Proposed Programs**

## **Habitat Retention**

*Protect* existing prairie grassland and associated upland habitats wetlands from any further loss or degradation.

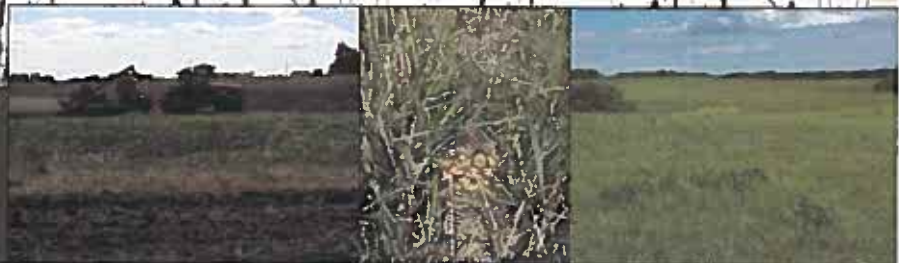
- Permanent Securement – 3400 ac  
Land purchase, Permanent Conservation Easements, Revolving Land Program
- Conservation Agreements (20-30 year)- 1500 ac



## **Upland Restoration**

Restore upland habitat converting cultivated lands to grasslands or other quality nesting cover.

- Convert Cultivated to Perennial Cover – 2,300 ac
- Winter Wheat - 40,000 ac



## Habitat Asset Management

Manage an existing 175,000 acres previously secured in partnership with LDWF, (taxes, fencing, habitat upgrades etc) to ensure long term productivity is maintained



## LDWF Legislated Funds are Leveraged for Maximum Benefit

**3 Year Total Proposed Match and  
Leveraging @ \$320,000 LDWF per year**

LDWF	=	\$960,000
DU	=	\$960,000
NAWCA	=	\$1,920,000
<hr/>		
Total US	=	\$3,840,000
Exchange (x1.3)		
Grand Total CDN	=	\$4,992,000

NAWCA requires a minimum 50% US non Federal match for Canadian Projects, meaning for every state dollar there are a minimum of \$4 in the program

**\$ 1 LDWF + \$ 1 DU+ \$2 NAWCA = \$4 US for conservation**



Conservation Initiatives	Proposed LDWF Acres	Proposed LDWF Costs	Proposed Program Acres	Proposed Costs
1. Habitat Retention				
a. Conservation Easements	675	\$337,500	2,700	\$1,350,000
b. Acquisition	225	\$337,500	900	\$1,350,000
c. Conservation Agreements	375	\$86,250	1500	\$345,000
2. Upland Restoration				
a. Forage	575	\$52,000	2300	\$208,000
b. Winter Wheat	10,000	\$15,000	40,000	\$60,000
3. Habitat Asset Management*	43,750	\$131,750	175,000	\$527,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,850</b>	<b>\$960,000</b>	<b>7,400</b>	<b>\$3,840,000</b>

\* Habitat Asset Management acres are not incremental and are therefore not included in the total acre goals.

# THANK YOU

Your support and continued action on the Canadian Prairies means that critical waterfowl habitat will be protected in the top waterfowl production area of North America. The benefits of these conservation efforts will endure for the enjoyment of future generations.

